# Research Notes: Mary Cecelia Brudell Healy (1873 - 1917)

## Research Overview:

Mary Cecelia Brudell Healy was born in 1873 in County Roscommon, Ireland, and her life is best understood through the continuity of her sibling relationships across migration and settlement. Most of her brothers and sisters emigrated to the United States, became naturalized citizens, and lived with or near Mary after her marriage in Chicago. The surviving record places her consistently within this extended family network, with siblings present in her household during her adult life and continuing to appear after her death as her daughters were raised.

Mary grew up in a large family in rural Roscommon, where siblings were born in close succession and remained together into adulthood. Although documentation from her early years is limited, the record shows that her siblings remained close after immigration. Those ties reappear intact in the American record, where brothers, sisters, and cousins are repeatedly associated with Mary through shared residence, census enumeration, obituary notice, and guardianship documents.

Marriage in 1904 placed Mary at the center of a dense household that included her husband, children, brothers, in-laws, and cousins. The 1910 census records this shared residence explicitly, and family members continue to appear together during the years when her children were young and after both parents died, until the daughters were old enough to work. Mary's adult life, as preserved in the record, is inseparable from the presence and persistence of her siblings.

Mary's life was brief. She died in January 1917, on her youngest daughter Gertrude's seventh birthday, only weeks before her husband, leaving three young daughters. Her obituary emphasizes her roles as wife, mother, sister, and daughter, naming a wide circle of surviving family members and situating her firmly within that network at the time of her death. The record closes with burial and later memorialization, preserving Mary's place within the family even as her own life ended early.

## Speculative Narrative:

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**Time Line:**

**10 Sep 1873 - Birth** at Doon, Strokestown, Roscommon, Ireland.[1]

**15 Sep 1875 - Birth of brother John Brudell (1875 - 1888)** at Doon, Strokestown, Roscommon, Ireland.[2]

**14 Dec 1877 - Birth of brother James Joseph Brudell (1877 - 1953)** at Doon, Strokestown, Roscommon, Ireland.[3]

**6 Jul 1880 - Birth of brother  Bernard James Brudell (1880 - 1946)** at Doon, Strokestown, Roscommon, Ireland.[4]

**1 Dec 1882 - Birth of sister Helen Frances "Ellen" Brudell (1882 - 1924)** at Doon, Strokestown, Roscommon, Ireland.[5]

**16 May 1885 - Birth of brother Thomas Brudell (1885 - 1953)** at Doon, Strokestown, Roscommon, Ireland.[6]

**9 Nov 1887 - Birth of sister Gertrude "Rose" Brudell (1887 - 1962)** at Doon, Strokestown, Roscommon, Ireland.[7]

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[1] "Ireland Civil Registration, 1845-1913", , *FamilySearch* (https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:QGYH-C81K: Mon Mar 04 22:09:48 UTC 2024), Entry for Mary Brudle and Thomas Brudle, 10 Sep 1873.

[2] Birth of brother John Brudell

[3] Birth of brother James Joseph Brudell

[4] Birth of brother  Bernard James Brudell

[5] Birth of sister Helen Frances "Ellen" Brudell

[6] Birth of brother Thomas Brudell

[7] Birth of sister Gertrude "Rose" Brudell

**24 Dec 1888 - Death of brother John Brudell (1875 - 1888)** at Doon, Strokestown, Roscommon, Ireland.[8]

**Note on early family structure:**

The sequence of births and the recorded death of a sibling show Mary growing up within a stable, closely spaced sibling group that remained together in the same place through childhood. Loss occurred within the household, without breaking up the family.

**Note on the undocumented transition:**

The record is silent on Mary's years between childhood in Ireland and her marriage in Chicago in 1904. Her migration is visible in later records, leaving the details of her departure and early years in the United States undocumented. Although Mary and Michael came from the same area of County Roscommon, the record does not show where or when their courtship took place.

**9 Jun 1904 - Marriage to Michael Healy (1905 - 1917)** at Chicago, Cook, Illinois.[9]

Pat McDermott served as a witness at Michael Healy's marriage to Mary Brudell. His presence suggests a possible family connection, though the relationship is not identified in the record. The McDermott surname raises the possibility of a connection to Michael's maternal family.

**Note on marriage and household formation:**

The siblings stayed as close in Chicago as they were in Ireland. In the years following Mary's marriage, the record shows her brothers and other relatives living in her household, with family proximity in the United States mirroring relationships established in Ireland.

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[8] Death of brother John Brudell

[9] "Illinois, Chicago, Catholic Church Records, 1833-1925", , *FamilySearch* (https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:QVMN-B17D: Sat Mar 09 14:01:45 UTC 2024), Entry for Michael J Healy and Mary C Brudell, 09 Jun 1904.

**2 Jul 1905 - Birth of daughter Mary Margaret Healy (1905 - 2005)** at Chicago, Cook, Illinois.[10]

**24 Oct 1907 - Birth of daughter Anne Genevieve Beatrice Healy (1907 - 1995)** at Chicago, Cook, Illinois.[11]

**1 Jan 1910 - Birth of daughter Gertrude Frances Healy (1910 - 1948)** at Chicago, Cook, Illinois.[12]
The 1910 census records Michael and Mary Healy living at 472 Cass Street in a household that included their children as well as siblings, in-laws, and cousins. The number and variety of relatives present indicate shared residence rather than a narrowly bounded household. Family members continue to appear together in the record after the deaths of both parents, remaining in shared living arrangements until the daughters were old enough to work.

**The household members listed were:**

**1910 - US Census** at Chicago, Cook, Illinois.[13]

Mike J Healey - head of household, male, white, age 38, married, born Ireland, parents born Ireland
James Brudell - brother, male, white, age 28, single, born Ireland, parents born Ireland
Bernard Brudell - brother, male, white, age 24, single, born Ireland, parents born Ireland

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[10] "Illinois, Chicago, Catholic Church Records, 1833-1925", , *FamilySearch* (https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:QVMN-B923: Sun Mar 10 17:18:22 UTC 2024), Entry for Mary Margaret Healy and Mich Healy, 16 Jul 1905.

[11] "Illinois, Chicago, Catholic Church Records, 1833-1925", , *FamilySearch* (https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:QVMN-Y5MV: Sun Mar 10 02:14:42 UTC 2024), Entry for Anna Genevieve Beatrice Healy and Michael Healy, 10 Nov 1907.

[12] "Illinois, Chicago, Catholic Church Records, 1833-1925", , *FamilySearch* (https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:QVMN-BFQJ: Fri Mar 08 05:59:50 UTC 2024), Entry for Gertrude Healy and Michael Healy, 16 Jan 1910.

[13] 1910 - US Census

Patrick Lanahan - cousin, male, white, age 21, single, born Ireland, parents born Ireland
John Lanahan - cousin, male, white, age 21, single, born Ireland, parentsborn Ireland
John Healey - brother, male, white, age 36, single, born Ireland, parents born Ireland
**Mary Healey - wife, female, white, age 32, married, born Ireland, parents born Ireland**
Mary M. Healey, 32, dup?
Mary Healy - daughter female, white, age 4, single, born Illinois, parents born Ireland
Anna G B Healy - daughter female, white, age 2, single, born Illinois, parents born Ireland
Gertrude Healy - daughter female, white, age 0, single, born Illinois, parents born Ireland

**Note on the 1910 household:**

The 1910 census records Mary at the center of a household that included her husband, children, and multiple siblings and relatives. This arrangement reflects their family life Mary in Ireland.

**1 Jan 1917- Death of Mary Cecelia Brudell (1873 - 1917)** at Chicago, Cook, Illinois. [14]

**3 Jan 1917-** Obituary[15]
"Mary C. (nee Brudell) Healy, beloved wife of Michael Joseph Healy, mother of Mary, Anna, and Gertrude, beloved sister of Anna, Michael, James, Bernard, Ellen, Thomas, and Gertrude, daughter of Thomas and Mary Brudell, native of Strokestown, County Roscommon, Ireland. Funeral Thursday, Jan 4, 1917, from late residence, 218 E. Superior st., at 9:30 am to the Holy Name cathedral, where high mass will be celebrated, autos to Calvary.

[14] "Illinois, Cook County Deaths, 1871-1998", , *FamilySearch* (https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:N7SG-36B: Thu Mar 07 05:20:52 UTC 2024), Entry for Mary Healy and Thomas Brudell, 01 Jan 1917.

[15] "Illinois, Cook County Deaths, 1871-1998", , *FamilySearch* (https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:N7SG-36B: Thu Mar 07 05:20:52 UTC 2024), Entry for Mary Healy and Thomas Brudell, 01 Jan 1917.

Chicago Daily News
Tues Jan 2, 1917
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Mary and Michael died within a month of each other.

After Mary died in 1917, her brothers were named guardians of her daughters, and were a daily presence in the girls' lives until they were grown and working**.**

**Feb 1917- Burial first at x and then at Mt. Calvary Cemetery** at Evanston, Cook, Illinois.[16]

**Note on burial and later memorialization:**

A gravestone at Mount Calvary Cemetery was later installed by Mary's daughter, Mary Healy Hopkinson. The stone records the names and dates of Mary Healy, her husband, two of their daughters, and other extended family members.

[16] "Find a Grave Index," database, *FamilySearch* (https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:QVVR-14WT: 24 May 2022), Mary Cecelia Brudell Healy, ; Burial, Evanston, Cook, Illinois, United States of America, Calvary Catholic Cemetery; citing record ID 24596612, *Find a Grave*, http://www.findagrave.com.

## Appendix:

The following letter, written by Mary Healy Hopkinson in 1980, includes a copy of her handwritten Brudell family tree.

## Mary Healy Hopkinson's Letter on her Brudell Genealogy Research

Dear Brudell Family Descendants
and Members,

To those of you who have asked for the enclosed Brudell Family Tree, here it is, to the best of my resources. To those who haven't, I'll be presumptuous and send it anyway.
To all of you, a special request to correct, supplement, change, etc., that which will add to the authenticity of this chart.
My whole-hearted thanks, in gathering very pertinent information, to Marie Brudell Dufficy of New York and Strokestown, Ireland, Evelyn Brudell also of Strokestown, Virginia Krews Louis of Maryland, U.S.A., Mary O'Sullivan of Sydney, Australia, and my departed aunt, Anne Brudell Gilhooley, to whom I should have listened more closely as she related family connections. Alas, conjecture plays a role in my remembrance.
I apologize for the five-year span entailed in compilation, but I have been stubbornly hopeful of learning the relationship of John Brudell to Michael Brudell. Were they brothers, but I think not, or were they first cousins? The latter being the case, I had hoped to learn the names of their parents and, in turn, the names of their common set of grandparents, which was my ultimate goal. Had I been successful in searching that out, I would have been satisfied.
It is regretted that the enviable opportunity was not at hand for tracing genealogy through baptismal registers and old, old gravestones in faraway places. Perhaps the names may be learned by one more resourceful and younger than I, in the years ahead. I do hope so.
At any rate, and I thank you for your patience, charting the family tree has been of deep personal interest, fascination, frustration at times, reward, and the mist of sadness so akin to nostalgia.
It is interesting to note how often the name of Ellen appears and reappears throughout the generations, indicating the first Ellen must have been a remarkable person. I, as a child of 9 or 10, had the privilege of visiting the Louis home in Baltimore, Maryland, where I met Ellen Brudell Hines, sister to my grandfather, Thomas Brudell, and I recall her as a lovely lady. She was

instrumental in bringing my mother and some of her sisters and brothers to America. Perhaps her mother or grandmother was the first Ellen.
With love and every good wish,
*Mary Healy Hopkinson*
August 11, 1980

**Open research questions:**

Future research may focus on the network of relatives, associates, and neighbors surrounding Michael Healy, particularly those who appear in his household in census records. This includes examining potential guardianship records for his daughters, identifying any individuals with the surname Lenehan mentioned in related documents, and locating records noted as missing or unresolved in the research timeline.